

## **Columbus Roads Rated Among The Nation's Smoothest Federal Data Ranks Roads #1 Among Cold-Weather Cities**

(Columbus) Despite cold winters, hot summers and millions of cars and trucks on the streets, the City of Columbus earned national high marks for road quality in a report recently released by The Road Information Program or TRIP. The surface quality of roads in Columbus was 8<sup>th</sup> among 70 Metropolitan Areas nationwide with a population of more than 500,000 people, and Columbus ranked #1 among cities in cold-climate states where freeze-thaw cycles in winter months cause potholes, cracks and other damage.

**“Our Snow Warriors, Pothole Patrols and transportation engineers deserve the praise for all the hard work they do in the worst weather conditions,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “We do all we can to keep traffic moving, to keep drivers, bikers and pedestrians safe, and to plan for the future needs of our residents as they travel to work and all around the community. We’ve invested millions of dollars in our roads and in our employees, and we are proud to give citizens the smoothest ride possible.”**

57% of Columbus’ roads, including Interstates, were rated “good,” the best rating available, and only 5% were deemed “poor.”

Since 2000, the City of Columbus invested \$25.6 million in Capital funds to resurface 525.2 lane miles. Another \$5 million to \$10 million will be spent in 2005 to continue improving aging streets, including a major project to fix 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in downtown. To date this year, City crews patched 90,475 potholes, many of which were caused by extreme temperature fluctuations and the ice storm in late December 2004. Crews filled 48,315 potholes in all of 2004.

**Public Service Director Henry Guzmán said he was, “pleased to learn that Columbus had the best road quality rating of cold-weather states across the nation and in all of Ohio.”**